FTEALMUN'25
UN Women
STUDY GUIDE

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1.   Letter From the Secretary General

Distinguished Delegates of FTEALMUN'25,

It is a great honour to welcome you all to FTEALMUN'25. In an age when global challenges affect each of us more profoundly than ever before, this conference represents far more than a gathering of students. It is a space where young voices can question, connect, and take the first steps toward shaping lasting change. The committees and agendas have been crafted with care, each one designed to spark meaningful dialogue, challenge existing perspectives, and inspire innovative solutions to the world's most pressing issues.

The true strength of FTEALMUN'25 lies in its diversity. Bringing together delegates from different backgrounds and viewpoints, this conference is a reminder that progress stems from the exchange of ideas. It is not only about policies or resolutions but about learning from one another, testing convictions, and building a community where every vision is valued. As you take on the role of diplomats, I encourage you to keep your minds open, to lead with patience and empathy, and to embrace the discomfort that often comes with meaningful negotiation.

I hope this experience empowers you to bring your full self into every discussion. Let it be a stepping stone in your journey to becoming thoughtful, forward-looking leaders. Each of you carries a unique perspective, and together you will define the spirit and success of this conference. My team and I are excited to see the passion, creativity, and determination you bring to the table.

On behalf of the entire Secretariat, thank you for joining us in this endeavour. May FTEALMUN'25 not only be remembered for its debates but also for the friendships formed, the lessons learned, and the inspiration that stays with us long after the final session concludes.

Warm regards,
Haktan Efe Özgür, Ela Çakır
Co-Secretaries-General of FTEALMUN'25

2.   Letter From the Under Secretary Generals

We are delighted and proud to welcome you to the FTEALMUN'25 UN Women Committee. As your Under Secretaries General, we are delighted to have you with us at this conference.

In this conference, our committee aims to encourage delegates not only to acknowledge the multifaceted nature of gender issues but also to develop concrete, innovative, and sustainable solutions.

Our committee invites you to confront the issues raised in this guide head-on. We encourage you to critically assess the evolving tech landscape, uncover the root causes of digital gender inequalities, and design workable, ethical, and inclusive policies that empower women to thrive online while protecting their rights. Your role as delegates will be critical in exploring how international cooperation, regulation, and innovation can work together to create safer and more equitable digital environments.

This study guide is written to equip you with the context, tools, and insights necessary for productive and effective discussions. We encourage you to thoroughly familiarize yourself with its content so that you can contribute to the committee at your full potential.

As your Under Secretary Generals, we are here to support you, guide you, and ensure that your experience is both challenging and inspiring. We are confident that each of you will bring unique perspectives that will enrich the committee's work.

We wish you all the best in your research, discussions, and decisions. We hope this conference will be an unforgettable journey of learning, leadership and collaboration.

Deniz Varol
Co-Under Secretary General

Öznur Göç
Co-Under Secretary General

3.   Introduction to the Committee

UN Women is the UN organisation that was created in July 2010 and is dedicated to gender equality and the empowerment of women. UN Women supports UN Member States as they set global standards for achieving gender equality, and works with governments and civil society to design laws, policies, programmes and services needed to ensure that the standards are effectively implemented and truly benefit women and girls worldwide. UN Women's main roles are to support inter-governmental bodies, such as the Commission on the Status of Women, in their formulation of policies, global standards and norms, to help Member States implement these standards, standing ready to provide suitable technical and financial support to those countries that request it, and to forge effective partnerships with civil society and to lead and coordinate the UN system's work on gender equality, as well as promote accountability, including thorough regular monitoring of system-wide progress.

4.   Key Terms and Points
Gender Digital Divide The gender digital divide refers to the significant disparity between men and women's access to and use of information and communication technologies, resulting from factors such as economic disparities, limited access to technological devices, inadequate internet connectivity, cultural barriers, and lack of digital skills.

Cyberstalking/Cyber-harassment: Cyberstalking is the use of digital communication tools for stalking; typically a pattern of threatening or abusive behavior, including threats of harm. Cyber-harassment differs from cyberstalking in that it generally doesn't involve a credible threat. It typically involves non-consensual behavior, such as threats or harassment via email/instant messages, or blog posts or websites solely intended to torment an individual. Harassment does not include activities or behaviors that serve a constitutionally protected and legitimate purpose, such as freedom of expression.

Digital Literacy: The ability to use digital tools and online platforms safely, efficiently, and consciously.

Algorithmic Bias / Gender Bias in AI: Systemic inequality that occurs when artificial intelligence and algorithms reproduce or reinforce gender-based biases.

Digital Feminism / Cyberfeminism: The feminist movement's digital presence, activism, and online advocacy efforts.

CSW67:UN's annual meeting on women's rights, focused on gender equality in the digital age—closing the digital gap, ensuring online safety, and strengthening women's access to technology.

5.   Introduction to the Agenda Item: Ensuring and Advancing Women's Rights in the Digital Age

        a.   the "Digital Revolution"

For years, the struggle for gender equality has aimed to secure women's fundamental human rights (such as the right to education, health, security, political participation, and economic opportunity etc.). While significant progress has been made, primarily through society's response to the existing order and through international agreements and national policies, gender inequality remains as a major problem around the world. Women and girls continue to face discrimination in their daily lives, limiting their full and equal participation in society.

As the digital world continues to expand and improve, it becomes more and more prevalent in our daily life. The digital age surely brings opportunities for empowerment, education and activism yet women and girls face new and evolving challenges in the digital world.These challenges include, but are not limited to, problems of access, representation, safety and equality.

In some countries, women's access to digital technologies can be more limited due to socioeconomic and cultural reasons. Even when access is available, there are still many inequalities encountered. Online spaces have become sites where women (especially activists, journalists, politicians etc.) are subjected to online gender-based violence, cyberbullying, underrepresentation and other forms of online violence usually caused by digital environments being designed without inclusive perspectives due to limited participation in digital policymaking processes. These inequalities are compounded for women in communities such as racial minorities, LGBTQ+ individuals, and those living under authoritarian regimes. AI systems can also continue and even worsen existing gender inequality problems, if not used ethically. From biased hiring algorithms to sexual harassment, the consequences of AI threaten hard-won gender equality. Furthermore, online platforms powered by algorithmic decision-making often expose women to targeted harassment, misinformation and digital violence, creating an environment that limits their participation in digital spaces. At the same time, women are significantly underrepresented in the design and management of AI systems, leading to a lack of inclusive perspectives in technological innovation.

This agenda item aims to promote the ethical use of digital technologies to advance women's rights while preventing their misuse as much as possible. By considering both the risks and opportunities of the digital world, technology can be used to advance women's rights.

Over the past several decades, the world has experienced a major technological transformation. The early stages of the "Digital Revolution" began with the spread of personal computers in the 1980s, followed by the rapid rise of the internet in the 1990s. These innovations changed how people learn, communicate, work, and access information. By the 2000s, mobile phones and social media platforms made digital tools a part of everyday life. Today, advanced systems such as artificial intelligence, cloud computing, and automation influence almost every sector from healthcare and finance to education and politics.Although this progress has brought many advantages, it has not affected all groups equally. While technology has created opportunities for economic growth and global connectivity, it has also introduced new forms of social inequality. Many communities still lack access to digital devices and reliable internet. Women and girls are especially affected by these inequalities because of economic barriers, cultural restrictions, and safety concerns. These factors contributed to what is now widely known as the gender digital divide, a gap between men and women in access to digital tools, digital skills, and meaningful participation in online spaces. Before the rise of digital technologies, global frameworks such as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW, 1979) and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995) established the international community's commitment to gender equality. However, the emergence of the internet in the 21st century presented new challenges that these agreements did not originally anticipate—especially regarding online safety, representation in technology, and protection from digital forms of violence.

### b.	Place of Women in Digital Age

Despite these challenges, the digital age has created new opportunities for women's empowerment.The internet has allowed many women to access education, build careers, and participate in public life in ways that were not possible before. E-learning platforms,

online training programs, and digital resources have enabled women to gain valuable skills even in places where educational opportunities are limited. such as #MeToo, #TimesUp, and #NiUnaMenos, allowing women to mobilize, raise awareness, and influence global conversations on gender justice. Digital entrepreneurship and remote work have also opened paths for women to participate in the economy even in traditionally restrictive environments. At the same time, women have become leaders in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) innovation, shaping technologies that better reflect diverse needs. However, the digital world has also introduced new types of violence, discrimination, and inequality that affect women in serious ways. As technology has advanced, the dangers women face online have also become more complex and more harmful. While some forms of online abuse are similar to forms of offline violence, digital platforms have made them easier to commit, harder to track, and wider in impact. As technology advances, online dangers have grown more complex and harmful, making forms of abuse. Though sometimes similar to offline violence; easier to commit, harder to track, and wider in impact due to digital platforms. Women frequently experience cyber harassment and cyberbullying, where they, especially public figures and human rights defenders, are targeted with anonymous threats and coordinated hate campaigns. Furthermore, gender based misinformation and disinformation are spread to damage reputations or silence activists, while the rise of deepfake technology poses a serious threat, with the majority of non-consensual videos and images targeting women. This is compounded by doxing, where private information is publicly exposed, putting women at physical risk and forcing them to withdraw from public discourse, as well as online extortion and "sextortion," which involve blackmail using private media. Even within the technology industry itself, women face systemic issues like workplace discrimination through unequal pay and exclusion, and the wider issue of algorithmic bias means that AI systems, often developed without adequate female representation, unintentionally perpetuate gender biases in areas like job advertising, facial recognition, and medical diagnostics. Global events, such as the South Korean "Nth Room Case" and the mass threats forcing female politicians to resign, clearly underscore that this digital violence is not merely a personal safety issue, but a critical problem impacting democracy, freedom of expression, and women's overall participation in society. Technology-Enabled Gender-Based Violence (TGBV) is any form of gender-based harm perpetrated through digital means or online platforms. While rooted in the same inequalities that enable offline violence, the digital environment amplifies its impact by allowing abuse to spread rapidly and anonymously. Women and girls can face online harassment, threats, cyberstalking, hate speech, or the sharing of private photos without their consent, while increasingly common practices like deepfake manipulation add layers of humiliation and oppression. These acts may occur on social media, messaging apps, gaming platforms, or through seemingly innocuous everyday technologies, but TGBV can profoundly impact mental health, restrict freedom of

expression, and completely exclude women from digital spaces, restricting their access to education, employment, and public discourse. Legal systems in many countries still struggle to address this type of digital abuse, leaving gaps that make it difficult for victims to seek justice. 66% of women globally have reported experiencing gender-based violence, including cyberstalking and stalking, doxxing, and image-based sexual abuse. There are also increasing reports of digital tools being used to exacerbate offline violence. Meanwhile, tech companies often lack coherent safety policies or fail to effectively respond to reports of harm. Because algorithms can unintentionally amplify harmful content, combating gender-based violence and violence is becoming a shared responsibility. The rapid integration of AI into daily life and the opportunities technology offers are also creating new risks and inequalities for women. Algorithms often carry the biases of the datasets they are trained on; therefore, AI systems used in areas such as recruitment, credit assessment, facial recognition, and security screenings may unknowingly discriminate against women. The historical underrepresentation of women in technology and data sources leads algorithms to assume the "standard user" is male, thus systematically reproducing gender biases. One of the most alarming developments is the use of generative AI to perpetrate image-based abuse. In 2023, 98% of non-consensual deepfakes were sexually explicit, and 99% of those affected were women. Generative AI has facilitated the creation and distribution of non-consensual, explicit content, victimizing more women and potentially desensitizing others to digital violence. These attacks not only threaten privacy and personal security, but also undermine women's ability to be visible in digital environments. The fact that legal regulations are not evolving at the same pace as technology, that AI-induced violence lacks a clear definition in most countries, and that technology companies are slow to eliminate biases in their algorithms makes solving the problem even more difficult. The rapid transformation of the global economy through digitalization has fundamentally reshaped labor markets, creating new opportunities and new vulnerabilities for women. As remote work, platform-based workforces, and AI-enabled work systems become increasingly prevalent, women are facing broader opportunities for economic participation, including flexible employment models, online entrepreneurship, and access to global markets. These developments are particularly impactful for women with limited mobility, caring responsibilities, or sociocultural barriers that limit their participation in traditional labor markets. However, the rise of the digital workforce also exposes women to structural challenges, such as algorithmic bias in hiring processes, unequal access to digital tools and training, and the precarious nature of gig economy work, which often lacks social protections, fair wages, and long-term security.

Economic empowerment in the digital age requires more than access to technology; it requires the skills, resources, and institutional support needed to navigate an increasingly automated workforce. Women are underrepresented in technology-intensive fields like data science, cybersecurity, and AI development, which are shaping the future of the

global economy. This underrepresentation risks reinforcing gendered power imbalances because the technologies that determine job distribution and productivity are often created without sufficient consideration of diverse gender perspectives. Furthermore, the digital gender gap, particularly in low-income and rural areas, exacerbates existing inequalities by restricting women's opportunities to pursue digital careers. Therefore, ensuring equal access to digital education, STEM training, and financial resources is crucial to enabling women to adapt to emerging workforce demands. The future of work also presents complex implications, as automation and artificial intelligence begin to replace or restructure traditional roles. Jobs held predominantly by women, such as administrative support, retail services, and clerical work, are among the most vulnerable to automation, creating potential job displacement risks. However, digital technologies are also creating new roles in e-commerce, virtual assistance, online marketing, and remote service delivery, offering alternative avenues for women's employment. Policymakers and international institutions must ensure that women are not only included in these emerging opportunities, but also protected from new forms of digital exploitation, such as data-driven surveillance, algorithmically controlled workloads, and opaque performance evaluation systems. Education also plays a central role in providing women with the knowledge and tools they need to navigate digital environments safely. Digital literacy programs that teach safe online behavior, privacy management, password security, and identifying online threats are essential. Furthermore, integrating these skills into formal education curricula, vocational training, and community-based initiatives can ensure broad and sustainable access. In addition to technical knowledge, awareness campaigns that highlight the social and psychological dimensions of online risks, such as cyberbullying, harassment, and online misinformation, are equally important. These campaigns empower women to recognize and address harmful behaviors while also fostering informed digital citizenship.

Strengthening digital resilience also involves fostering a proactive mindset. Women should be encouraged to participate in technology development, cybersecurity initiatives, and policymaking to influence how digital systems are designed, regulated, and secured. Mentorship programs, peer networks, and community support structures can further foster confidence and provide guidance in responding to digital threats. Furthermore, public and private sector collaboration is necessary to create safe, accessible, and inclusive digital infrastructures, including user-friendly reporting mechanisms, responsive law enforcement frameworks, and platforms that prioritize user safety and accountability.

In recent years, numerous initiatives have emerged globally to strengthen awareness, education, and digital resilience for women. This reflects a growing awareness of gender-specific risks in online spaces. The United Nations Human Security Programme, in partnership with UN Women, has implemented projects such as the "Protecting and Empowering Women in the Digital Sphere" initiative in Egypt, which aims to raise

awareness of technology-related gender-based violence, build the capacity of local stakeholders, and promote policies that enhance women's digital safety. In Pakistan, UNDP has launched a comprehensive program to address cyber violence against women, combining legal reforms, institutional capacity building, and digital literacy training to empower women and reduce their vulnerability to online threats. Similarly, civil society organizations have taken proactive steps to expand access to digital skills; for example, in Türkiye, the University Women Association (TÜKD) is offering training programs in collaboration with UN Women and the European Union, providing women with practical training in digital safety, online security, and artificial intelligence awareness. Globally, initiatives like the She4Cyber platform actively promote women's participation in cybersecurity through mentoring and training, helping them develop the technical expertise they need to navigate and shape digital environments safely. Campaigns like "Take Back the Tech!" use technology as a tool for activism by making digital violence visible and encouraging community-based interventions, while iconic campaigns like UNFPA's "BodyRight" raise awareness about privacy, consent, and protecting the digital body from exploitation. Technological innovations also play a direct role in building resilience; AI-powered systems are being developed to detect and flag sexist or harmful content online, providing users with real-time protection and support. Complementing these initiatives, programs targeting youth and elite communities, such as the Youth Resilience Project in Uzbekistan and Tech Herfrica in Africa, focus on increasing digital literacy, cybersecurity skills, and access to technology, enabling women and girls to fully and safely participate in the digital world. Collectively, these efforts demonstrate a multilayered approach where education, awareness, and technological innovation come together to strengthen women's digital resilience and promote equal participation in an increasingly interconnected society.

c.   Actions Taken

Global efforts to ensure and advance women's rights in the digital age follow a comprehensive and multi-faceted approach that combines establishing robust international norms with targeted programming to address the persistent digital gender gap and emerging online threats.The urgency of this challenge has been recognized internationally, notably during the 67th Commission on the Status of Women (CSW67), which focused on "innovation and technological change, and education in the digital age for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls." These efforts build upon foundational pre-digital commitments, such as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW, 1979), often described as the international bill of rights for women, which obliges states to eliminate discrimination in all areas of life, including new forms of online and

technology-facilitated violence. Complementing this, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action of 1995 set strategic objectives for the advancement of women that increasingly inform digital access, media representation, resource distribution, and decision-making power across technological areas. UN Women has been instrumental in translating these frameworks into actionable programs embedding digital literacy, technical skills, and online safety initiatives within global projects aligned with SDG 5. This includes its work in calling for comprehensive legal and policy reforms to criminalize technology-facilitated gender-based violence-including, for example, cyber harassment, doxing, and the non-consensual sharing of intimate images-and to support survivor-centered services providing legal, psychological, and technical support. To tackle structural inequalities, UN Women and partner organizations have implemented initiatives to close the digital gender divide through ensuring the accessibility of devices at affordable prices, connectivity, and targeted skills training, particularly for marginalized communities, and by advocating for gender-responsive AI governance to reduce algorithmic bias by increasing women's active role in technology design and development. Beyond the UN, regional legal instruments like the Istanbul Convention and multi-stakeholder partnerships among governments, technology companies, academia, and civil society organizations come up with technical solutions, standards for platform accountability, and safety protocols to create a more inclusive and safe digital environment. Despite these efforts, progress still remains uneven, which underlines the need for sustained collaboration, policy implementation, and resource allocation so as to ensure that all women globally equally benefit from the digital transformation.

6. **Countries' Policies**

Yemen
According to the UNWOMEN's research on the matter 62 percent of the women in Yemen have been exposed to online violence before. Also 44 percent of these women have been exposed to online violence multiple times. Women in Yemen have long been subjected to systematic discrimination and often face violence, which has devastating consequences on their lives. In the absence of action by the authorities, online gender-based violence has now been extended to this situation.One of the reasons why these rates are so far above average is the limited capacity of government institutions such as the police and other criminal justice authorities. While the women and the Yemeni government maintain their collaboration, the majority of society continues to act aggressively toward women on digital platforms and keeps targeting women who defy social norms.

China

In 2025, a woman called Ming found a camera placed by her boyfriend in her bedroom and she found out that her boyfriend had been taking her and her female friend' sexually exploitative photos then using AI to generate the photos into inappropriate images of them. In such cases, China's laws are so weak that the penalty is only 500 yuan up to 10 administrative detention. Also society's pressure is so high, Chinese women prefer to stay silent when they can report the harassment they are under.

Russia

The European Court of Human Rights decided that Russian authorities violated Article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights by failing to protect Anastasiya Volodina from cyber violence and by conducting a slow and ineffective investigation into her criminal complaints. Also there was an unofficial Russian men's organization called "Men's State". This organization was aimed at advocating patriarchy and Russian nationalism but their actions were focused on insulting, bullying, threatening and harassing the women, black people and LGBT+ people. Even though this organization was banned in 2021, there are still these kinds of organizations on the internet. The digital domain is a powerful space for communication and social impact today. For women, the safety and freedom of this space is essential for further social change. A strong state like Russia controlling the digital domain without awareness has the potential to silence, threaten, or censor women's online voices. This is also a major backward step in advancing gender equality.

India

According to the Internet and mobile Association Of India's data analysis, only 45 percent of the society have access to the internet but 82 percent of this percentage use someone else's device to access the internet. Also while 57 out of every 100 men have internet access, this rate is only 33 out of every 100 women. As cybercrimes keep evolving, India's legal framework remains quite weak. Also some victims state that the police and such institutions keep delaying the case, recognizing enough time for the criminals to disappear.

7.   Questions to be Answered

     a.   How can states ensure women's rights are fully protected in the digital age?

     b.   How can women gain equal access to digital tools and online opportunities?

     c.   What steps can be taken to reduce gender bias in AI systems?

     d.   How can AI and digital tools be developed using ethical principles?

     e.   How can digital literacy among women and girls be improved globally?

     f.   How can women's leadership in digital innovation and policymaking be encouraged?

     g.   What strategies can reduce the impact of misinformation and hate speech on women online?

     h.   What long-term frameworks are needed to secure women's rights in future technological developments?

8.   Further Research

https://knowledge.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2025/06/normative-advances-on-technology-facilitated-violence-against-women-and-girls

https://www.ungei.org/publication/defining-and-measuring-technology-facilitated-gender-based-violence

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https://www.icrw.org/technology-facilitated-gender-based-violence-in-the-time-of-covid-19/